[13th August 1954

SRI M. ETHIRAJULU :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have gained in this transaction? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There is no question of gain in the transaction. The prices do not vary very largely."

SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" May I know, Sir, whether the prices paid by this Government in respect of these purchases compare favourably with the Andhra local market rates? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice, Sir."

Produce of tobacco in this State during the years 1952–53 and 1953–54.

* 122 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total produce of tobacco in this State during the years 1952–53 and 1953–54; and

(*b*) the chief tobacco producing areas in this State?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The total produce of tobacco in this State during 1952–53 and 1953–54 is 19,800 and 28,100 tons respectively.

" (*b*) The chief tobacco producing areas are Coimbatore and Madurai districts and to a lesser extent Tiruchirappalli, Tanjore, South Arcot and South Kanara districts."

Adoption of Japanese method of cultivation in South Arcot district.

3-10 p.m. * 123 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJULU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Japanese method of cultivation has been adopted in South Arcot district;

(*b*) if so, how many acres have been cultivated under that method; and

(*c*) the difference in the quantity of produce between the Japanese method and the old methods?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (*b*) One thousand two hundred and two acres were cultivated under the modified Japanese method in the South Arcot district during the period from June 1953 to March 1954. It is proposed to bring 12,000 acres under this method of cultivation during the year 1954–55.

" (*c*) The average yield of paddy under the modified Japanese method is 4,421 lb. per acre as against 3,374 lb. per acre under the old method."